

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 09794 040904Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05  
L-03 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07 SP-02  
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /128 W  
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O R 040415Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2576  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9794

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ECON, ENRG, ASEAN, TH  
SUBJECT: ENERGY INITIATIVES FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S  
VISIT TO THE ASEAN AREA

REF: (A) STATE 82633; (B) BANGKOK 8142

1. THAI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND FINANCIAL LEADERS ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER FACT THAT IN 1977 FOREIGN OIL IMPORTS ACCOUNTED FOR 25 PERCENT OF THAILAND'S \$4 BILLION IMPORT BILL. THEY WOULD THEREFORE WELCOME ANY PRACTICAL INITIATIVES WHICH HELP STAUNCH THIS FLOW. THAI OFFICIALS WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO COOPERATION ON BOTH REGIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVELS, BUT WOULD PROBABLY WISH TO KEEP ANY SHARE OIL PROGRAMS (SEE BELOW) ON A BILATERAL BASIS.

2. WE FULLY ENDORSE THE PROPOSAL FOR COOPERATIVE ENERGY PLANNING AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS. WE BELIEVE RTG'S  
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NATIONAL ENERGY AUTHORITY, NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD, DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES (DMR), ELECTRICAL GENERATING AUTHORITY OF THAILAND (EGAT), AND THE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FACULTIES AT AIT AND OTHER UNIVERSITIES COULD PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLES.

3. USAID/T IS HOPEFUL THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP

WITH THE RTG AN ENERGY PROJECT FOR FY 80 OR 81 WHICH WOULD HELP THAILAND IMPROVE ITS ENERGY PLANNING AND CONSERVATION AND EXPAND USAGE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES.

4. WITH REGARD TO SPECIFICS, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. LIGNITE. HIGHLY COMPETENT TEAMS FROM EGAT AND THE DMR HAVE ALREADY CARRIED OUT DETAILED SURVEYS OF MAJOR LIGNITE DEPOSITS. EGAT IS IN FACT EXPANDING, WITH ASSISTANCE OF ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, LIGNITE PRODUCTION SYSTEM WHICH FUELS MAJOR THERMAL POWER PLANT BUILT AT IMPORTANT DEPOSIT NEAR MAE MOH IN LAMPANG PROVINCE. WE SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT WITH REGARD TO LIGNITE WE CONFINE OURSELVES TO ASKING THAI WHETHER, AND IN WHAT WAY, WE MIGHT BE HELPFUL.

B. EGAT HAS SHOWN SOME INTEREST IN WHAT ARE ADMITTEDLY SMALL GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES AND WOULD PROBABLY WELCOME SOME ASSISTANCE ALONG THESE LINES.

C. SOLAR ENERGY, BIOMASS CONVERSION, WINDPOWER ALL HAVE POTENTIAL IN THAILAND, PARTICULARLY FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL FAMILY APPLICATIONS. SOME RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION IS ALREADY UNDERWAY IN THAILAND, INCLUDING RESEARCH AT AIT. UNDOUBTEDLY THAIS WOULD WELCOME HELP FROM U.S. EXPERTS, TECHNICAL EXCHANGES, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, AND PARTICIPATION IN PILOT PROJECTS.

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PARTICIPATION IN PILOT PROJECTS.

D. SHALE OIL. AS REPORTED IN REF. B, MANY THAI OFFICIALS PLACE HIGH HOPES ON EVENTUAL PRODUCTION OF SHALE OIL IN THAILAND AND WOULD WITHOUT DOUBT RESPOND ACTIVELY TO ANY U.S. ASSISTANCE ON SHALE OIL INVESTIGATIONS. FYI: CHULALONGKORN UNIV. HAS CONSTRUCTED EXPERIMENTAL SHALE OIL RETORTS.

E. CONSIDERABLE RTG ATTENTION AT MOMENT IS FOCUSED ON DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL GAS RESOURCES IN GULF OF SIAM. USG FUNDED TWO STUDIES IN EFFORT TO GET GAS PIPELINE PROJECT UNDERWAY IN EARLY PLANNING STAGES, BUT WE BELIEVE PROJECT HAS NOW ACQUIRED A MOMENTUM OF ITS OWN AND WILL BE ABLE TO ATTRACT TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR NEEDED CAPITAL FACILITIES. IBRD HAS OFFERED \$5 MILLION FOR ENGINEERING COSTS. THUS IT APPEARS ADDITIONAL DIRECT USG FINANCIAL OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS NOT NEEDED.

4. THE PROPOSAL TO INITIATE A TECHNICAL EXCHANGE WITH RESEARCHERS AT AIT FOR THAI AS WELL AS REGIONAL ENERGY PROGRAMS WOULD FIT WELL WITH OBJECTIVE OF RAISING ENERGY

PROGRAMS IN ASEAN CONTEXT. PERHPAS IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE  
TO COORDINATE THESE EXCHANGES WITH, OR HAVE THEM COMPLEMENT,  
AID'S FORWARD-LOOKING ENERGY MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM  
(77-STATE 285291).

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014